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CONTACT: Jacob Coin
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
jcoin@sanmanuel-nsn.gov
Office: 909-864-8933, ext. 3220

CONTACT: Cindy Beavers
San Bernardino County Sheriffs
Public Information Officer
cbeavers@sbcasd.org
Office: 909-387-3700

SAN BERNARDINO SHERIFF AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOIN SAN MANUEL CHAIRMAN TO ANNOUNCE RENEWAL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENT

Event Commemorates Cooperative Relationship

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians will host a press conference to announce the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Tribe and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office to provide ongoing law enforcement services on the San Manuel Indian Reservation.

The third one-year extension of an agreement originally entered into in 2006, provides for public safety services on the reservation, including round-the-clock patrols of the reservation, purchase of two Sheriff's Department patrol cars, and support for the San Bernardino District Attorney to prosecute crimes occurring on the San Manuel reservation.

San Manuel Tribal Chairman James Ramos, Sheriff Gary Penrod, County of San Bernardino and San Bernardino District Attorney Mike A. Ramos will make brief statements announcing the government to government relationship that is the basis of the agreement between the county of San Bernardino and the Tribe.

"Under Public Law 280, California is required to assume jurisdiction over most criminal matters on tribal lands within the state," said San Manuel Chairman James Ramos. "We are here today to celebrate the success of our relationship with the county, and to demonstrate our faith and confidence by extending the MOU. By working together, we have been able to work through the challenges created by PL 280."

Enacted by Congress in 1953 Public Law 280 provided no additional financial or technical support for these new law enforcement responsibilities. Counties continually struggle to provide adequate service to tribal communities in the face of this unfunded mandate while tribal communities were too often left without law enforcement services.

“The extension of this Joint Services Agreement will be a tremendous benefit for the members of The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the citizens of the surrounding community. We look forward to continuing to build on the positive relationships that have been established with the Tribe,” said San Bernardino County Sheriff Gary Penrod. “I applaud Chairman Ramos for his leadership and his strong public safety values.”

A comprehensive approach to law enforcement, the agreement provides funding for the district attorney to address criminal complaints arising throughout the reservation including San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino.

“As the District Attorney of San Bernardino County, I am grateful for the ongoing partnership we have with the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians,” said San Bernardino District Attorney Michael A. Ramos. “Chairman James Ramos has made it a priority to make San Manuel Indian Reservation a safe place to live and play.”

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

About the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department is the primary law enforcement for the county of San Bernardino. San Bernardino County is geographically the largest in the nation, encompassing 20,186 square miles. San Bernardino County Sheriff Gary S. Penrod is an elected official. Sheriff Penrod ran unopposed in 2006 and was elected to his fourth, four-year term as Sheriff. Sheriff Penrod oversees a staff of 3,400 and an annual budget of \$361 million. There are 24 incorporated cities within San Bernardino County. Fourteen of those contract with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services. The Department provides these cities with full service law enforcement, traffic services, investigations, and a wide variety of safety services.

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